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ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Role of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Under Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/6 of 19 February 1993, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/254 of 28 July 1993 and by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/154 of 20 December 1993, an operational presence of the Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia was mandated:

(a) To manage the implementation of educational and technical assistance and advisory services programmes, and to ensure their continuation;

(b) To assist the Government of Cambodia established after the election, at its request, in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments recently adhered to, including the preparation of reports to the relevant monitoring committees;

(c) To provide support to bona fide human rights groups in Cambodia;

(d) To contribute to the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

(e) To continue to assist with the drafting and implementation of legislation to promote and protect human rights;

(f) To continue to assist with the training of persons responsible for the administration of justice.

2. In its resolution the Commission requested the Secretary-General to communicate the contents of the resolution to, and seek the consent and cooperation of, the Government of Cambodia to facilitate the tasks of the Special Representative appointed pursuant to the resolution and of the Centre in the fulfilment of their mandates, and decided to review the programme and mandates at its next session. Mr. Michael Kirby (Australia) was appointed on 23 November 1993 by the Secretary-General as his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, with a mandate to maintain contact with the Government and people of Cambodia; guide and coordinate the United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia; and assist the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights. The mandate of the Special Representative was subsequently renewed by the Secretary-General upon requests made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1994/259 and 1995/...

3. The Assembly, in its resolution 48/154 of 20 December 1993 and 49/199 of 23 December 1994, also requested the Secretary-General to assure the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia.

4. Information on the programme of activities in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights and the activities performed from October 1993 to January 1994 was made available to the Commission in the report of the Secretary-General on the question (E/C.4/1994/73, chap. VI.C), along with the letter from the Royal Government of Cambodia to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights welcoming the initiative taken by the Commission and the efforts of the Assistant Secretary-General to ensure continuity in activities for the

promotion and protection of human rights through the establishment in Cambodia of an office of the Centre (E/CN.4/1994/73, annex II). The Commission, in its resolution 1994/61 of 4 March 1994, took note with satisfaction of the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the Government concerning the consent of the Government for the fulfilment of the activities of the Centre, and decided to review the programmes and mandates as set out in resolution 1993/6 at its next session.

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 1994/199, welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Centre in assisting the Cambodian Government and the people in the protection and promotion of human rights (A/49/635/Add.1); commended the ongoing efforts of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights in supporting and assisting the Government, as well as in supporting non-governmental organizations and others involved in the protection and promotion of human rights in cooperation with the Government, and condemned unreservedly attacks on them; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session on the role of the Centre in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights.

6. Information on the activities of the Centre from July to November 1994 was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session (E/C.4/1995/87, Chap. I.B.). In its resolution 1995/55 of 3 March 1995, the Commission noted with appreciation the programmes of activities of the Centre; welcomed the efforts made by the Government to promote and protect human rights, including measures to improve human rights education, conditions of prisons and in creating a functioning system of justice, and urged that efforts should continue in those areas; encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to meet its reporting obligations under international human rights instruments, drawing on the assistance of the office in Cambodia of the Centre; and encouraged the National Assembly to enact a press law consistent with internationally recognized standards and which protected freedom of expression while promoting press responsibility. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session on the role of the Centre in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights; it also decided to review at the same session the programmes and mandates set out in its resolution 1993/6 and to continue its consideration of the matter under the agenda item entitled "Advisory services in the field of human rights".

7. Information on the activities of the Centre from December 1994 to 31 July 1995 was submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (A/50/681/Add.1). The present report contains a description of the activities and programmes implemented in Cambodia by the Centre for Human Rights from July to November 1995 as well as an evaluation of its implementation of the programme of activities since 1993.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA, JULY TO NOVEMBER 1995

8. Most of the activities of the Centre for human Rights in Cambodia are financed through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for a Human Rights

Education Programme in Cambodia. Information about the Trust Fund, including the list of contributions, is contained in document A/50/681/Add.1, which is available to the Commission.

A. Assistance in legislative reform

9. Through its office in Cambodia, the Centre for Human Rights has carried out a number of activities for the creation, strengthening and support of a legal framework consistent with international human rights norms and for securing the promotion and protection of human rights.

10. Assistance has been provided to the National Assembly in general and to its various commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints, and to the Royal Government, including the various ministries concerned, in the drafting and implementation of the laws listed below. Assistance has also been provided to interested sectors of the civil society, including non-governmental organizations and media organizations and groups.

11. Immigration. The Immigration Law was adopted by the National Assembly from 22 to 26 August 1994. The Law provides for different categories of non-immigrant and immigrant aliens and contains provisions concerning deportation of illegal aliens. At the request of the Ministry of the Interior, the Centre provided a consultant on immigration matters for a period of six months to assist the Ministry in implementing the Immigration Law in a manner consistent with international human rights standards. The Centre worked closely with staff of the Ministry of the Interior during this period. Eight separate regulations have been drafted and submitted to the Government for consideration. The Centre also provided comments on regulations on refugees which were drafted by the Ministry of the Interior with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Centre, in cooperation with UNHCR and non-governmental organizations, continues to assist the Government in the implementation of the Immigration Law and the policies and practices relating to ethnic minorities, particularly as they relate to ethnic Vietnamese, and, where necessary, has communicated its comments to the Government. The Centre has also closely liaised with UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior on the issue of the internally displaced ethnic Vietnamese at Chrey Thom, along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. During this period a significant number of internally displaced persons have been allowed to return to their places of residence. Approximately 105 families are left at the border at the time of writing.

12. Freedom of the press and freedom of expression. The Centre continues to assist the Government in the implementation of the Press Law, which was adopted by the National Assembly from 26 June to 18 July 1995 (see A/50/681/Add.1, paras. 33-36).

13. Women. The draft women's code was submitted by the State Secretariat for Women's Affairs to the Council of Ministers in June 1995. The Centre continues to provide advice to the State Secretariat, members of the National Assembly and non-governmental organizations as the draft is considered by the Royal Government.

14. Prisons. Many meetings were held with officials at the Ministry of the Interior, including officials in charge of prisons and of prison legislation. With the technical assistance of the Centre, a set of draft prison rules and a draft prison law have been prepared which are in accordance with Cambodia's international human rights obligations and responsive to the current problems facing prison administrators and prisoners in Cambodia. The draft is now being discussed by the officials concerned.

15. At the request of the Ministry of the Interior, the Centre is making arrangements to field a consultant to explore the feasibility of implementing non-custodial options in Cambodia, as a way to reduce overcrowding in prisons. The Centre has organized emergency provision of food and medical care in a number of prisons and it continues to encourage donors to consider assisting in the renovation of and material assistance to Cambodian prisons.

16. Trafficking in children and prostitution. The Centre is assisting government officials, members of the National Assembly and non-governmental organizations in preparing a draft law prohibiting the sexual exploitation, kidnapping and trafficking of children - which continues to increase in Cambodia, according to non-governmental and other concerned organizations - and providing positive measures to address the problem. The Centre has also provided comments on another draft law relating to kidnapping and prostitution of all persons that is currently before the National Assembly.

17. Nationality. A draft nationality law has been before the Council of Ministers since late 1994. The Centre has continued to provide detailed comments to the Ministry of the Interior and suggestions for revisions to the draft on the basis of international human rights standards.

18. Associations and non-governmental organizations. The Centre continues to assist the Ministry of the Interior in drafting a law regulating associations and non-governmental organizations. The Centre met regularly with Ministry officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations to facilitate a consensus in support of a draft which protects freedom of association while addressing the legitimate concerns of the Government.

19. Electoral Law. Local elections are tentatively scheduled for early 1997 and national elections are scheduled for 1998. The Centre is assisting Cambodian institutions and individuals in conceptualizing and drafting a legal framework for free and fair elections. In,October, a week-long seminar was held on elections systems and administration, sponsored by the Ministry of the Interior and the Khmer Institute of Democracy and supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Asia Foundation. The Centre assisted the planning committee of the seminar in which experts from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, France, Germany, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States participated. The seminar included three days of public discussion on various topics relating to free and fair elections and their administration, one day of private discussions with all provincial governors and police chiefs, one half day with members of the National Assembly, one half day with representatives of local and international non-governmental

organizations and private meetings with ministers and other officials. During the seminar statements endorsing internationally accepted principles relating to free and fair elections were made by King Sihanouk, First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh and Minister of the Interior Sar Kheng, among others.

20. The Centre continues to provide legal assistance, upon request, to members of the National Assembly.

21. Land-mines. The Centre continues to give advice to the Government on a draft law outlawing the use, import and sale of land-mines in Cambodia. The office was requested to assist in the drafting of a law on land-mines to achieve these objectives. The office also continues to work with UNHCR and de-mining and humanitarian agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations on this issue.

22. Anti-corruption law. Several different draft laws on corruption have been submitted to the National Assembly. The Centre continues to give advice to officials of the Government, members of the National Assembly and representatives of local non-governmental organizations on a draft law on corruption.

23. Military court reform. The Centre has met with the chief prosecutor of the Military Court many times, in order to design a project for assisting the Court. The Military Court continues to be treated as part of the Ministry of Defence, is not established by law, and lacks facilities, trained personnel and equipment that are necessary for ensuring discipline within the military. Many meetings have been held with bilateral donors.

24. Implementation of laws generally. The Centre also continues to assist the Government in the implementation of laws to ensure their consistency with internationally recognized human rights standards. In particular, the Centre continues to assist the Commission on Human Rights and Reception of Complaints of the National Assembly and non-governmental organizations, at their request, with advice on the human rights aspects of laws and their implementation. Examples include all of the above subject areas as well as the Bar Association Statute, criminal law, criminal procedure law, the law on the outlawing of the Khmer Rouge, land title and eviction law, regulations concerning squatters and the Cambodian Constitution.

25. Other activities. Advice and assistance continue to be provided by the Centre to the Commission on Human Rights and Reception of Complaints of the National Assembly in its day-to-day functioning. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in paragraph 8 (b) of its resolution 1994/61, had identified financial assistance for the Commission on Human Rights as a priority area. The Centre has been in regular contact with several donors, including the European Union and UNDP, to secure funding for the proper functioning of the Commission and has also recommended to several bilateral development assistance agencies the provision of financial assistance to the Commission. As a result substantial assistance from the European Union and UNDP is expected to become available by the end of 1995.

B. Administration of justice

26. Judicial Mentors Programme. The Judicial Mentors Programme, which is funded from a US$ 200,000 contribution from Japan to the Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia, became operational in June 1995. The programme has the following objectives:

(a) To assist Cambodian courts in implementing legislation in conformity with international human rights standards;

(b) To assist in improving coordination between the courts, prison officials, the police, the military and the provincial administration;

(c) To assist judges in the day-to-day functioning of the courts with respect to organization, procedure and law;

(d) To prepare an assessment for a long-term overhaul of the judicial system and the policy and legal changes necessary to achieve such an overhaul;

(e) To provide training to the judicial police, court clerks, prosecutors and judges as required.

27. The programme, initially envisaged for six months, will be extended for an additional six months. The Centre is also seeking funds for rehabilitation of court buildings and provision of basic equipment and material resources. The court in Siem Reap has already undergone renovations to provide basic facilities and courtroom equipment, with the funding provided by the Australian Government.

28. The strategy of the project is to place consultants - judges or experienced lawyers - in the provincial or municipal courts to assist Cambodian judges, prosecutors and clerks on a daily basis. The consultants, inter alia, conduct training on the Cambodian Constitution, United Nations conventions in force in Cambodia and other relevant international human rights norms and Cambodian laws; they also answer legal questions posed by their Cambodian colleagues which arise in the course of the court's work and assist court personnel to improve the administration of justice. They have provided the courts with copies of the Constitution, international human rights conventions and Cambodian laws in Khmer, a compilation of which was prepared by the Centre.

29. During the period covered by this report four mentors were stationed under this programme in the courts of Kompong Speu, Siem Reap, Pursat and Phnom Penh, including a retired Supreme Court Justice from Bangladesh, a magistrate from Zimbabwe and experienced lawyers from Sri Lanka and India. Two more mentors are expected to arrive soon and will be placed in Takeo and Kandal.

30. In providing assistance to the judiciary under this programme, the Centre cooperates with the French Bilateral Assistance Programme, which focuses primarily on training of new judges, and the programme of the International Human Rights Law Group, which works in parallel with the Centre's programme in five other provinces.

31. The Minister of Justice has fully supported the implementation of the Programme by the Centre, sending letters to all the courts asking the judges to cooperate closely with the mentors and urging the Centre to train all the legal actors in human rights norms and the principles of the rule of law.

32. Legal training. The Centre conducted an introductory human rights training workshop for higher-ranking officers of the gendarmerie (military police under the control of the two co-Prime Ministers). Topics discussed were human rights and their application in the Kingdom of Cambodia, human rights policing in democratic States and the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. The Centre plans to develop and organize a wider training programme for the gendarmerie in 1996.

33. The Centre conducted a one-week judicial human rights training workshop for 45 trainee judges who are being trained by the Ministry of Justice. Topics presented and discussed were the following: the role of courts in a democratic State; judicial independence; the rule of law and enforcement of human rights; courts applying Cambodian domestic law and international human rights law; and the relationship between the courts and economic, political and social development.

34. The Centre also continued its Military Assistance Programme (MAP), a programme arranged with the Ministry of Defence, which adopts a train-the-trainers approach. In MAP, the Centre is training high-ranking officers of the armed forces to impart the "Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) human rights and international humanitarian law training" to other officers and their subordinates. In three of the five military regions, officers who completed MAP teach other officers and soldiers on the application of human rights, the rule of law and international humanitarian law in the armed forces. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provides assistance to teach international humanitarian law. At the time of preparation of this report, approximately 200 high-ranking officers from different military regions of RCAF had completed MAP. Officers who completed MAP will be conducting RCAF human rights and international humanitarian law training courses for thousands of officers and soldiers in the five military regions and designated special military region in 1996. This training will be conducted on the basis of a curriculum resulting from an adaptation of the curriculum used by MAP.

C. Treaty reporting and international obligations

35. The Government continues serious preparations to meet Cambodia's reporting obligations under the various United Nations human rights Conventions to which it has acceded (see A/50/681/Add.1, paras. 84-89 and annex III). The Centre continues to provide advisory services and technical cooperation to both the government bodies and local non-governmental organizations involved in the treaty reporting process. As mentioned in previous reports, the Centre has funded the establishment of interministerial subcommittees for the preparation of reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

36. The draft report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) has been completed and translated into French. The office assisted in the review of the translation. The report will be sent to the Human Rights Committee after its approval by the Council of Ministers. On 14 August 1995, during a meeting with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia, the Minister of Justice, who is also the Chairman of the Interministerial Committee on Reporting Obligations, confirmed that the report was to be sent soon to the Council of Ministers. The Special Representative and the office recommended that the Government submit its reports as soon as possible. The office extended its offer of technical assistance to the Council of Ministers.

37. Concerning the report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Interministerial Committee had finished reviewing the draft report by mid-September. Representatives of the Centre and UNICEF were invited to participate in all the meetings of the Interministerial Committee. Representatives of the NGO Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child also participated significantly in the debates of the Interministerial Committee. In general, the comments by the Centre, UNICEF and the non-governmental organizations were welcomed. The draft report is now being translated into French and also needs to be approved by the Council of Ministers before its submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

38. The governmental Subcommittee on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination continues to meet twice a week and has almost finished drafting its report. It is expected that the Interministerial Committee will revise this draft at the beginning of December.

39. The next reports to be prepared by the Government will be on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Concerning the former, the secretariat of the Interministerial Committee has started to identify representatives of five ministries to be members of the Subcommittee on that Convention. It is expected that the Subcommittee will start working in December, assisted by the Centre.

40. The Centre has also continued general training activities on international human rights norms and obligations for government officials. Under the implementation of the "five points" agreed between the Government and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Marrack Goulding, in May 1995 to enhance the cooperation between the Government and the Centre, three seminars were organized and training was provided by the Centre. One seminar was held for three staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in charge of preparing comments on United Nations reports relating to human rights in Cambodia. Another seminar was organized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for some 50 senior staff members of ministries concerned on: the functioning of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Secretariat (the Centre invited the Representative of the Secretary-General in Cambodia, Mr. Benny Widyono, to participate); the structure, mechanisms and reporting process of the

United Nations; the mandate of the Centre in Cambodia. A lecture was given in the framework of a training seminar organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for senior staff members in charge of international organizations and staff members who will work on the integration of Cambodia into the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

D. Education for human rights, teacher training and curriculum development

41. With regard to formal education, the Centre is continuing to provide assistance and support to the Cambodian Institute for Human Rights which has developed human rights curricula for years 1 to 11 of the Cambodian school system. The Centre is presently considering a project, to be implemented with UNESCO, for the introduction of social studies - which would include human rights concepts - at the secondary level.

42. The Centre is also devoting increasing attention to the development of training methodology for Cambodian audiences. Training curricula have been developed for the armed forces, NGOs and the gendarmerie; a curriculum on human rights training for commune leaders is currently being developed. After each curriculum is developed, the Centre conducts workshops to train trainers how to teach the new curriculum. The workshops have a twofold purpose: one is to create a standard form of training and the second is to improve the quality of the training provided by the Cambodian trainers attending the workshops. An evaluation process is associated with the training methodology. After trainers have been teaching the curricula for a certain period of time, the Centre holds a workshop evaluating the quality of the training methodology during which assistance is provided by the Centre for the continued improvement of the methodology.

E. Support to non-governmental organizations and civil society

43. More than 30 local non-governmental organizations work in various fields relating to human rights. Around 10 of them are particularly active in the field of human rights education, monitoring and protection (see A/50/681/Add.1, paras. 96-103). The Centre for Human Rights continues to provide these groups with financial and technical assistance in order to strengthen their capacity to carry out promotion and protection activities, and to improve their capacity also to provide human rights education for all levels of society.

44. Meetings with human rights non-governmental organizations are taking place on a regular basis at the Cambodia office of the Centre in Phnom Penh as well as at its provincial offices (Battambang, Siem Reap and Kompong Cham). Many activities of the provincial offices are directed at assisting human rights non-governmental organizations, including the establishment of committees to monitor prison conditions, regular meetings to exchange information, and human rights training. Also in the provinces, non-governmental organizations are increasingly cooperating with each other in dealing with difficult cases of human rights violations. The office continues to provide the needed guidance and training in all the fields of activity of the non-governmental organizations.

45. With a view to better informing the public about their activities and their role, non-governmental organizations are preparing, with the assistance of the office, a directory of Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations.

46. The Centre has been involved in many activities of non-governmental organizations, including: (a) police training by non-governmental organizations (in Takeo, Kampot, Kompong Cham, Battambang and Siem Reap); (b) briefings on racial discrimination and the rights of minorities (in Phnom Penh, Pursat and Battambang); (c) weekly meetings of the Action Committee which has been active in addressing concerns of violations of human rights and in initiating urgent investigations. The office will continue to assist the Action Committee, as well as the Human Rights Task Force on Cambodia which provides its assistance and expertise to this coalition.

47. The Centre continues to provide assistance to several non-governmental organizations working on children's issues. It attended the monthly meetings of the Child Welfare Group (a group of representatives from ministries, United Nations Funds and agencies, and national and international non-governmental organizations working in the field of children's rights) and continues to assist the NGO Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Centre actively participated in a workshop on children's rights organized by the NGO Committee which included children from various provinces. At the end of the workshop, a Children's Committee on the Convention was elected. The Centre also sponsored, in cooperation with UNICEF, an art competition on children's rights organized by the NGO Committee. With a small grant from the Trust Fund, five prizes were awarded by the First Prime Minister on 20 November 1995 at the launching of the Cambodian National Council for Children.

48. The Centre has also continued to provide technical assistance to the work of the organization End Child Prostitution, Abuse and Trafficking in Cambodia as well as to the recently established Action Committee on Child Exploitation. It has also assisted non-governmental organizations on the drafting of a proposal for a law concerning the sexual exploitation, sale and trafficking of children. The Centre also actively participated in meetings on child labour held by the Asian-American Free Labour Institute.

49. Several meetings with non-governmental organizations working on children's rights issues are taking place on a regular basis at the Cambodia office in Phnom Penh as well as at the provincial offices. In Phnom Penh, the office has assisted a working group to identify problems relating to juvenile justice and provided help to the recently established Ministry of Youth Rehabilitation. In Battambang, the NGO Committee on Child Abuses has had monthly meetings since June to discuss cases and take action. In Siem Reap, the office has created a Children's Rights Committee, with representatives of non-governmental organizations as well as United Nations Funds and agencies.

50. On 12 August 1995, the NGO Committee on the Convention met with the Special Representative during his sixth visit in Cambodia. They held two preparatory meetings, with the assistance of the Centre, and provided the Special Representative with documents and a report on major issues regarding

children's rights, including concerns regarding the situation of orphans and education, juvenile justice, and sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

51. For non-governmental organizations working on women's rights, the Centre for Human Rights, with the cooperation of UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organized a workshop on the Women's Convention on 1 and 2 November 1995. The purpose of the workshop was to elect an NGO committee to help the Government to draft its report and who will write an NGO report on the Convention to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) based on the model of that for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. During this workshop, a briefing was given on the Convention and the CEDAW reporting process. A representative of the Government explained the reporting obligations of the Government and welcomed the help from non-governmental organizations. Thirty associations, most of them local, attended the workshop. Nineteen were candidates for the membership of the NGO Committee. Observers of seven United Nations institutions were present, as well as observers from the United States Embassy and the European Union. The elected Committee is composed of nine associations: Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), Amara, Cambodian Institute for Human Rights, Cambodian Women Development Association, Cambodian Women's League for Human Rights and Development, Khemara, Khmer Women's Voice Centre, Ligue cambodgienne pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme (LICADHO) and Women for Prosperity. The NGO Committee on the Women's Convention will be provided with training on CEDAW by the office.

52. The Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations and other local non-governmental organizations undertaking human rights work continue actively to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights. The Centre continues to assist the development and strengthening of the Cambodian civil society.

53. Nine Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations have agreed jointly to conduct the "Human rights training for Buddhist monks in the Kingdom of Cambodia": Human Rights and Community Outreach Project (OUTREACH); Ligue cambodgienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme et du citoyen (LCDHC); Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Association; Human Rights Vigilance of Cambodia (VIGILANCE); Indra Devi Association (IDA); Cambodian Woman Development Association (CWDA); Khmer Buddhist Society (KBS); Cambodian Woman League for Human Rights and Development (CWLHRD); and LICADHO. The Centre conducted the first of two workshops on the training for non-governmental organization trainers in utilizing and teaching a curriculum for Buddhist monks. This curriculum focuses on the interrelationship between Buddhism and human rights. Beginning in January 1996, these NGO trainers will begin the training in 18 provinces.

54. A workshop was conducted by the Centre for LCDHC on human rights teaching methodology and the duties of citizens in a democracy. The Centre also conducted a workshop for Generous Association for Democracy on techniques in human rights monitoring and investigation.

55. The Centre continues to provide assistance to ADHOC, VIGILANCE, LICADHO and OUTREACH which are conducting police human rights training in 12 provinces arranged with the Ministry of the Interior. Thousands of policemen and policewomen were trained in 1995 applying a common-core curriculum developed by the Centre and the four NGOs earlier in the year. The Centre has reviewed the teaching methodology of these NGOs and plans an additional evaluation in early 1996.

56. The Centre has so far received more than 50 projects from NGOs for funding under the Trust Fund for Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia, covering a wide range of proposed activities in the areas of women, children and minorities rights, popular education and information, as well as activities to strengthen the monitoring, documentation and reporting capacities of NGOs, especially at the provincial level. The Centre continues to brief NGOs with a view to improving their skills to design and manage human rights projects, to manage funding and to prepare adequate reports on the implementation of the projects.

F. Information and documentation

57. The Centre continues to disseminate human rights materials, in Khmer, French and English, to ministries, embassies, United Nations programmes, Funds and agencies, NGOs, institutions, schools and the press. Human rights materials in the Khmer language distributed by the Centre include the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and a compilation of Cambodian Laws. The translated materials are provided upon request and form the basis for the ongoing human rights training and promotional activities. From August to November 1995, a total of 27 ministries, embassies, United Nations programmes, Funds and agencies, other international and national institutions, NGOs, schools and the press received the materials. For the police human rights training, the office is in the process of printing and distributing 20,000 Human Rights Pocket Guides to the police containing relevant laws and human rights material. The Pocket Guide is to serve as an essential source of information for the training and to provide the police with convenient and easy access to the material for reference after the training is completed.

58. The Centre celebrated United Nations Day (24 October 1995), along with other United Nations bodies operating in Cambodia, by disseminating human rights materials to the public. To celebrate Human Rights Day (13 December 1995), the Centre planned an event in which United Nations bodies would give presentations on their activities in the country relating to the promotion of human rights. Human rights materials will be disseminated. Also, the Cambodia office will participate actively in an event organized for 10 December by the Cambodian NGO Committee for the celebration of Human Rights Day. On 9 December the office will award a certificate to the winners of a television competition organized by the Cambodian Institute for Human Rights.

59. The Centre provides a resource and video room for visitors, who can view human rights videos or read human rights documents and publications. Also, the office is in the process of publishing a monthly newsletter for 1996 which will describe, inter alia, the relevant human rights activities of the National Assembly, its Commission on Human Rights, Cambodian human rights NGOs, the programmes of United Nations bodies and those of other international and bilateral assistance programmes and agencies, as well as the activities undertaken by the office.

G. Network of provincial offices

60. The programme of activities of the Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia, which was agreed upon by the Government in 1993, includes the establishment of provincial offices of the Centre with the purpose of strengthening human rights activities at the provincial level and ensuring uniform implementation of the Centre's programme throughout the Cambodian territory.

61. The Centre opened its first provincial office in Siem Reap in February 1995, followed by the Kampong Cham office on 22 February 1995 and the Battambang office on 25 April 1995. The establishment of provincial offices was welcomed by the local authorities. Each of the offices is staffed by an international Human Rights Officer who is a United Nations Volunteers (UNV), assisted by a Cambodian Human Rights Assistant. In Phnom Penh, a Provincial Network Coordinator (UNV) coordinates the activities of the provincial offices. The main functions of the provincial offices are to assess the needs and to provide technical support, training and information services to the provincial authorities, the judiciary, the police, the military, the local communities and the local NGOs.

62. Activities implemented in the three provinces in which the Centre had established an operational presence at the time of the preparation of this report include: regular meetings with the police and prison authorities, the military and local human rights NGOs; human rights training for the military and the police; assistance to the courts; visits to the prisons; dissemination of information to the local community; dissemination of the Constitution, compilations of international instruments and Cambodian laws that have been prepared by the Centre.

63. At the time of preparation of this report, the three offices were organizing, in cooperation with local NGOs, celebrations for Human Rights Day on 10 December 1995, which is an official holiday in Cambodia. Various activities such as peaceful processions, drawing contests, exhibitions, traditional dances and games, plays, etc. will take place. The Centre is also planning to open, in the next few months, three additional provincial offices. The establishment of additional offices will depend on the availability of funds through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia.